



**Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Southern District of Texas**

Donald J. DeGabrielle, Jr. • United States Attorney

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JOHN YEMBRICK

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

(713) 567-9388

**FORMER RAYMONDVILLE ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER SENTENCED TO
20-YEAR PRISON TERM FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CONVICTIONS**

BROWNSVILLE, TX – Samuel E. Baker, 44, a former Animal Control Officer for the Raymondville Police Department, was sentenced to a lengthy prison term for possessing, receiving and distributing child pornography, United States Attorney Don DeGabrielle announced today. At a hearing this afternoon, United States District Judge Hilda Tagle ordered Baker to serve a total of 20 years in federal prison for his four counts of conviction for possession, receipt and distribution of child pornography via the Internet. This sentence will be followed by a life-time term of supervised release. Baker was convicted by a jury's verdicts following a two-day trial in January 2006.

During today's sentencing hearing, Judge Tagle held Baker responsible for possessing 1,142 images of child pornography, including images of minors less than twelve years old. Baker's sentence includes further increases to the base offense level for use of a computer, distribution of the images, which included sadistic, masochistic conduct or other depictions of violence. Because the defendant refused to admit his guilt, he received no credit for acceptance of responsibility. The sentence represents the upper end of the applicable sentencing guideline range. Judge Tagle, in pronouncing Baker's sentence, told Baker her job was to protect the public and asked, "... how can I protect the most precious segment of our society?"

As part of his lifetime term of court supervision following his release from prison, the court also ordered Baker to register as a sex offender, participate in sex offender programs, have no unsupervised contact with children, and have no access to any Internet service or computers.

The investigation that led to Baker's arrest, conviction and today's sentence began with the discovery by investigators of the Texas Attorney General's Office of images of child pornography on a Yahoo! group site. These images were determined to have been uploaded by a computer at Baker's residence in Raymondville, Texas. Investigators found more than 1000 images of child pornography on Baker's home computer, including many of the images that had been uploaded onto the Yahoo! group site. Another 100 images depicting children engaged in sexually explicit activity were found on floppy disks in Baker's office at the Raymondville Animal Shelter. Some of these images were also found on Baker's home computer.

In February 2005, Baker denied possessing or uploading child pornography, although he did admit to viewing child pornography on the Internet while looking for adult pornography. At

trial, the defense was unsuccessful in its attempt to convince the jury that Baker had never been seen viewing child pornography, nor knowingly possessing, receiving or distributing the child pornography.

This case was investigated by the Texas Attorney General's Office and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Terra Bay.

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